

Amendments To The Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown.

1– 11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) A method for updating communication services in a packet switching communication network comprising:

providing in the packet switching communication network multiple communication components, including a plurality of components having different hardware and software functionalities for performing different functions, wherein some of the components use or provide the same communication service in the packet switching communication network;

providing to a plurality of the components an identical software-controlled communication service that provides a feature to facilitate communication between at least two of the components;

identifying at least some of the components providing the identical software-controlled communication service in the communication network;

initiating a comparison of information by one of the components to compare release information of software controlling the communication service on each of the identified components when providing the identical software-controlled service; and

initiating a software update for one component when a comparison identifies that the release on said one component is different from the release on a second of the components, wherein software with a more up-to-date release is sent from the second of the components or from a third communication component to said one component with an earlier release, and wherein the identical software-controlled service is selected from the group consisting of: a gateway functionality enabling communication between the packet switching communication network and a component in a circuit switching network; a voicemail server service, and an address server service.

13 - 14. (canceled)

15. (previously presented) The method of Claim 12, wherein comparison of release information is repeated at settable time intervals.

16. (previously presented) The method Claim 12, wherein the network includes a packet-switching network.

17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A method for providing communication services in a packet switching communication network, comprising:

providing communication services in a packet switching communication network formed of components having different hardware and software functionalities for performing different functions, with each of multiple ones of the communication components capable of providing an identical software-controlled service;

enabling the identical software-controlled service in a first of the communication components; and

activating, or updating software pertaining to, the identical service in a second of the communication components by downloading software pertaining to the identical service from a third communication component to the second component, wherein the software controls a service selected from the group consisting of: a gateway functionality enabling communication between the packet switching communication network and a component in a circuit switching network; a voicemail server service, and an address server service.

19 - 22. (canceled)

23. (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the first communication component initiates updates of software in the second component and in multiple other communication components.

24. (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the first communication component in the communication network has been provided with a most up-to-date release for operation thereon and for downloading to other components.

25. (currently amended) A method for updating a service in a packet-switching communication network, comprising:

providing a packet switching communication network formed of components having different hardware and software functionalities and performing a plurality of communication services with the components, including providing an identical software-controlled service on a first servent communication component and a second servent communication component, the components communicating peer-to-peer;

initiating a comparison by the first of the components to compare release information of the software controlling the service on at least the second component relative to software controlling the service on at least the first component; and if the releases are different,

identifying a more up-to-date release installed on a third servent communication component; and

initiating a software update by downloading the more up-to-date release from said third one of the components to one of the components for which release information has been compared, wherein the software controls a service selected from the group consisting of: a gateway functionality enabling communication between the packet switching communication network and a component in a circuit switching network; a voicemail server service, and an address server service.

26 -28. (canceled)

29. (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the comparison of the release information is repeated at settable time intervals.